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**BUTTE COUNTY WOMAN'S FEDERAL SENTENCE IS
DOUBLED FOR HER FAILURE TO SELF-SURRENDER
AS ORDERED BY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that former Butte County resident, LORRAINE ANN BLANTON, 53, received a 4-month consecutive sentence for her felony failure to surrender to federal authorities for service of a federal sentence of imprisonment as ordered by United States District Court Judge Edward J. Garcia.

The possession of stolen U.S. Mail case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The failure to appear case against BLANTON was investigated by the U.S. Marshal's Service in and for the Eastern District of California.

According to district court documents, on December 11, 2003, BLANTON was charged in a federal indictment with three counts of felony possession of stolen U.S. mail and three counts of felony bank fraud. After her appearance on the charges, she was released from custody on conditions pending disposition of the case. On January 23, 2004, she pleaded guilty to three counts of possession of stolen mail.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the underlying possession of stolen U.S. Mail case and the failure to appear for service of sentence case, on July 16, 2004, BLANTON was sentenced by Judge Garcia to serve four months in prison. At the conclusion of the sentencing hearing, Judge Garcia granted BLANTON's request that she be allowed to self-surrender to serve her sentence on September 2, 2004. When BLANTON failed to surrender as scheduled, a warrant was issued for her arrest.

On September 12, 2004, BLANTON was arrested at a motel in Woodland, California. She subsequently was indicted for felony failure to self-surrender, and pleaded guilty on October 29, 2004. BLANTON was sentenced to an additional, consecutive 4- month term of federal incarceration for her failure to self-surrender as ordered by Judge Garcia.

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